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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. 25X1A

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DATE DISTR. 1 September 1953

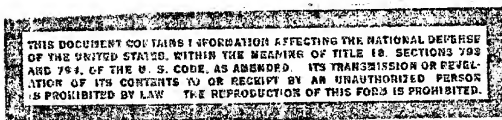
NO. OF PAGES 4

NO. OF ENCLS. 1 of 2 pages
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Military Ammunition and Explosives
Depot, Bilek, near ChoteborPLACE
ACQUIREDDATE OF
INFO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE

General

1. A military explosives and ammunition depot of the Czechoslovak Army is located in the vicinity of the village of Bilek (4945 N - 1545 E) near the town of Chotebor (4943 N - 1540 E), Eastern Bohemia.
2. The depot is under the direction of the 52nd Artillery Base, which is responsible for storing ammunition and guarding the area. The 52nd Artillery is under the jurisdiction of an unspecified department of the Ministry for Defense and an undetermined section of the General Staff of the Czechoslovak Army. Commissions from the Ministry and the General Staff are known to have inspected the depot. The commissions consisted of officers in uniform who conferred with the officers stationed at Bilek and inspected the warehouses, the area and other installations.
3. The depot was established by the Czechoslovak Army prior to World War II. During World War II it was used as an ammunition depot by the German Army, which enlarged it. After the war the depot was re-occupied by the Czechoslovak Army, which took over large stores of ammunition and explosives of German origin left behind by the Germans.

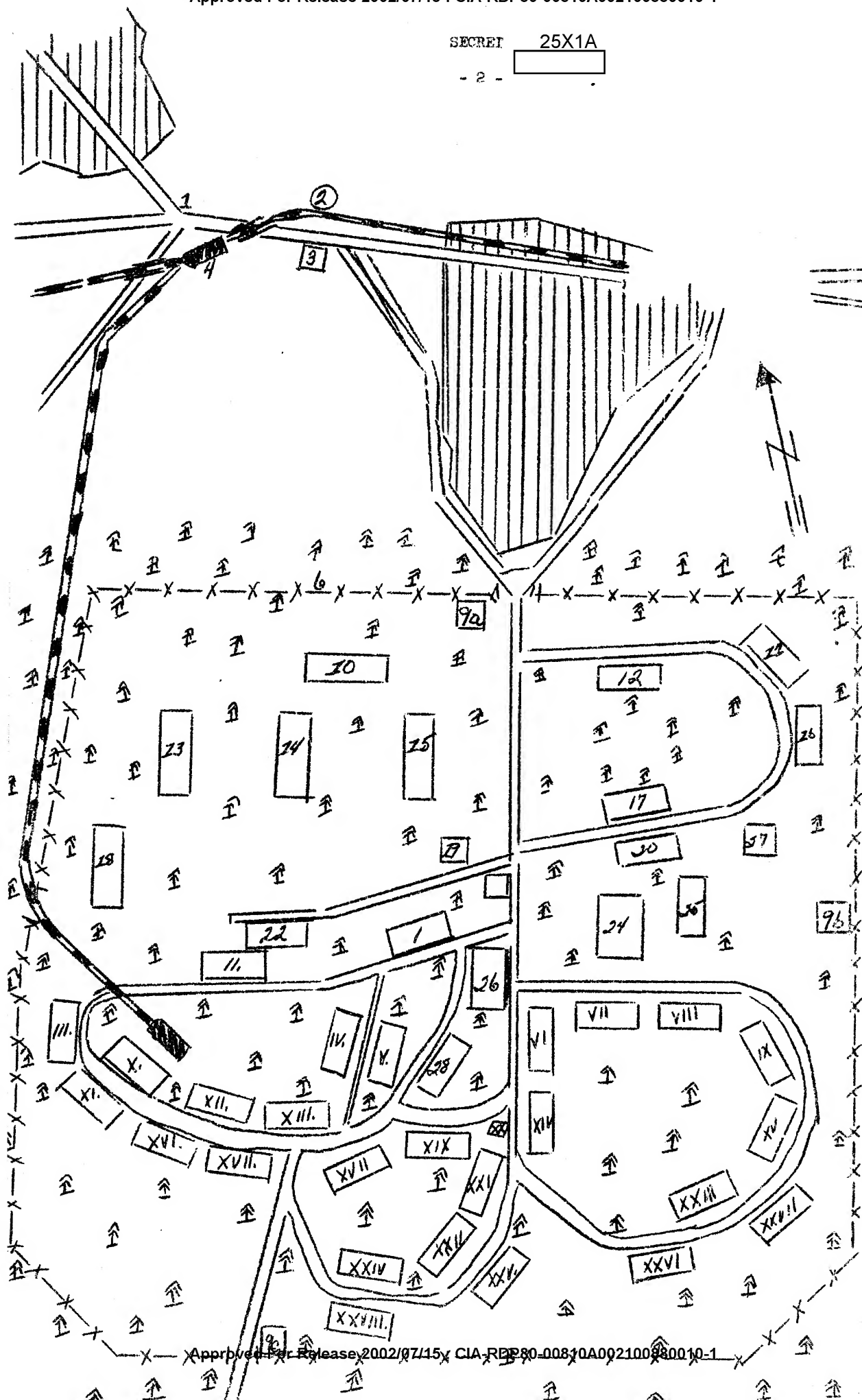
Storage of Explosives and Ammunition

4. Ammunition of all kinds, including rifle cartridges, artillery fuses, artillery shells, gunpowder (in crates), and explosives like Tritol CYPR, is stored in the depot. No bombs, however, are kept there. From November 1952 to January 1953 soldiers were engaged in sorting out the supplies left at the depot by the German Army. The German ammunition was transported to mines in a distant unidentified forest where it was disarmed or exploded. The demolition squad in charge of this work was billeted in Bilek.
5. Ammunition and other supplies stored at the depot are transported by rail or by trucks. It is not known where the ammunition comes from,

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S E C R E T

Attachment 1

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L E G E N D

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Crossroads near the town of | 16. First aid station |
| CHOTEBOR (4945 N - 1540 E) | 17. Headquarters building (area command) |
| 2. Water tower | 18. Tools and equipment shed |
| 3. Villa | 19. Administration building |
| 4. Railway station, CHOTEBOR | 20. Recreation center |
| 5. Railroad siding to the | 21. Fuel and oil |
| BILEK ammunition depot | 22. Guard room |
| 6. Fence | 23. Officer in charge of the guard |
| 7. Main entrance | 24. Drivers' billet |
| 8. a) Side entrance for trains | 25. Tools and equipment shed |
| only | 26. Motor pool |
| b) Side gate (exit into the | 27. Area train stop |
| woods) | 28. Workshop |
| 9. a), b), c). Guard towers | |
| 10. Barracks for military guard | I. - XXVII. Ammunition and explosives |
| units | dupps |
| 11. Kitchen and messhall | |
| 12. Food storage | |
| 13. Latrine | |
| 14. Barracks for guards | |
| 15. Barracks for guards | |

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6. An unidentified major (branch of service not known) was in charge of the depot as of January 1953. Under him were officers, NCO's and soldiers assigned to the storage dump, workshop and motor pool, and to the guard unit. One officer was responsible for two or three storage dumps. Loading, unloading, and storing of ammunition was carried out by soldiers, usually by groups of four to eight men under the supervision of an officer. Duty started at 6: a.m., and the actual working time was divided into two four-hour shifts, 8: a.m. to 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Soldiers at the depot live by the normal barracks routine and have to attend political lectures. It is not known how many officers, NCO's and men are assigned to the depot.

Security Measures

7. The entire depot area is surrounded by a wire-mesh and barbed-wire fence, 2.5 meters high, fastened to concrete posts. The compound can be entered only by the main gate, where all pedestrians and vehicles are checked. All employees have a "Prukaz" special pass, pink, 10 x 5 centimeters large, without picture. The "Prukaz" shows the name of the bearer, his date of birth, and the number of his military book, which also has to be shown to the guards at the gate. The stamp on the "Prukaz" has the inscription "Josadkova Sprava Bilek." The depot area is patrolled night and day by regular guards and guards with dogs. Even during working hours soldiers are prohibited from going near the storage dumps unless accompanied by an NCO. When leaving the area military personnel have to present a special pass "Propustka," for which application must be made to an NCO at least 24 hours prior to leaving the installation. Fire hydrants are scattered over the area and for the special protection of the storage dump compound there are many chemical fire extinguishers and piles of sand available. It is not known what kind of weapons the guards carry.

Physical Layout of the Depot

8. The ammunition depot covers a rather large area in the woods near Bilek. The installations are divided into two parts: administrative buildings and barracks; and ammunition and explosives dumps. The following are the administrative buildings and barracks: 2/

#9 a, b, c - small brick buildings with two rooms each for the guards on duty. #9 a is located near the main gate (only vehicle entrance), where all vehicles and pedestrians are checked. #9 b is a rest room for the guards patrolling the fence. #9 c is next to the gate leading to the woods; it is only used as an emergency exit, however, and normally may not be used by vehicles.

- # 10 - standard wooden barracks, 30 x 50 meters, serves as quarters for the work company.
- # 11 - wooden barracks, 30 x 50 meters, serves as kitchen.

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- #12 - wooden barracks, 30 x 50 meters, serves as food supply dump.
- #13 - wooden barracks, 30 x 50 meters, serves as the latrine.
- #14 & 15 - wooden barracks, 30 x 50 meters, serve as quarters for NCO's and soldiers on guard duty.
- #16 - wooden barracks, 30 x 50 meters, serves as the dispensary.
- #17 - headquarters building, brick construction, one story, concrete roof. The layout of the rooms is not known.
- #18 & 25 - wooden barracks covered with roofing paper, serve as tool and equipment sheds.
- #19 - small brick building (measurements and layout of rooms unknown), serves as administration building for all installations in the area.
- #20 - wooden barracks, 30 x 50 meters, serves as the recreation center, with a sales counter for cigarettes, unrationed food like sausages, smoked meat, and rolls and beverages.
- #21 - above ground gasoline pump, no special construction; underground iron container for fuel.
- #22 - brick building (measurements unknown), serves as office building for the guard company.
- #23 - brick building. Here the guards are assigned to their posts and have to report for duty.
- #24 - standard wooden barracks, roof covered with tar paper, serves as quarters for the drivers and the artisans who work in the workshops.
- #26 - large garages, stone construction. The number and type of vehicles kept here are not known. Most of the trucks were PRAGA RM models.
- #27 - end of the railroad siding connecting the area with the station Chotebor. There is no building but merely a concrete ramp on one side. On the other side the trucks can drive right up to the railroad cars.
- #28 - large brick building, serves as a repair shop. It consists of one large hall equipped with lathes, drills, milling machines, grinding machines and a carpenter workshop.

The roofs of the wooden barracks Nos. 9 a, b, c, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, and 20 are covered with tar paper.

The following is the layout of the ammunition and explosives dumps:^{2/}

There are 28 large brick and concrete buildings 60 x 12 x 15 meters. The floors of these warehouses lie approximately 1½ meters above the ground. They have concrete roofs and small, barred windows right under the roof. All buildings are along the road and can be entered from this side only. There are four concrete ramps which the trucks can drive up. From the ramps three or four heavy wooden sliding doors (on rollers) lead into the warehouses.

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- 1/ 25X1A
 Comment. There are in Policka ammunition plants which were built by the Germans.
- 2/ 25X1A
 Comment. The numbers given the buildings and barracks are keyed in with the map of the area (see Attachment 1).
- 3/ 25X1A
 Comment. Designated by Roman numerals I - XXVII in Attachment 1.

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